in a National Seminar on Unorganised Sector Workers held on 7-8 November 2002 and also in a Tripartite Committee meeting held on 18-19 February 2003. Such steps are being taken to bring about a workable consensus for implementation of the recommendations of the Commission. However, given the procedure involved, it is not possible to specify the time limit.

Pending proposals from Labour Department of Chhattisgarh

†1037. SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the proposal received till date from the Labour Department of Chhattisgarh Government pending for approval with the Central Government;

(b) the reasons for not according approval so far; and

(c) by when all the pending proposals, particularly accommodation related matter of beedi labourers of Rajnandgaon, would be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) to (c) The proposals for grant of subsidy for 254 houses for beedi workers in Rajnandgaon submitted by the Labour Department of Chhattisgarh Government was found incomplete. The requisite information in this regard is yet to be received from the State Government.

Employees Provident Fund

1038. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are seriously considering to amend the Employees Provident Fund Act to enable the employees to pay their housing instalments from the accruals of their provident fund account;

(b) if so, the details of the amendments to be brought before the Parliament; and

(c) whether Government would bring the proposed amendments before the Parliament during its current session?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise, in view of (a) above.

Labour reforms

1039. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to inauguarate a series of labour reforms in order to secure global competitiveness;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether recommendations of the Second Labour Commission have been taken into consideration in this context;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether various trade unions and labour organisations have been involved in programme of labour reforms and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) and (b) Review/updation of labour laws is a continuous process in order to bring them in tune with the prevailing situation and emerging needs of the economy. Taking into consideration the requirement of productivity competitiveness employment generation and to update the provisions of labour laws, a need has been felt to make amendments in certain labour legislations and steps initiated accordingly. Thus, amendments in the Trade Unions Act, 1926, the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 and Cine Workers' Welfare Fund Act, 1981 were recently carried out. Meanwhile the Second National Commission has submitted its report to the Government. The Commission has made a wide ranging recommendations on various facets of labour *viz.* review of laws, social security, women & child labour, skill development, labour administration, unorganised sector etc.,

(c) to (e) The Ministry has held consultations and interactions, with the workers' representatives, employers' organizations, experts, professionals etc. The recommendations of the Commission were discussed in the 38th Session of Indian Labour Conference held on 28-29 September 2002 and in a National Seminar on Unorganised Sector